An Essay
On the
Comparative Merits of Homœopathy & Allop.
By
Respectfully Submitted
To the Faculty of the
Homœopathic Medical College
of Pennsylvania
on the
thirtieth day of January
One thousand Eight hundred and fifty
by
Geo. H. Doyle.
of
New York City.

The unparalled progress of Homoeopathy during the last Half Century, the character and number of its adherents and disciples, the vast influence it has exerted upon the Medical Profession, and its increasing favour and popularity in all Classes of Society under an investigation of its merits and demerits, compared with the long established tenets of Medical practice, the duty of every Man upon whom rests the Cares and responsibilities of Human life.

Since the year one thousand, eight hundred and five the doctrines of Hahnemann have radiated from one little Nucleus over all Parts of the Civilised world; Germany, Russia, Prussia, Austria, France,

Spain, England, and America have given their thousands of Practitioners, and their tens of thousands of adherents. Hospitals and dispensaries have added their weight of Statistical Evidence to the rapidly advancing System of Medicine — and while the Name of Hippocrates, Galen, Boerhaave, Brown and a host of others, Shall live in the Memory of Man as Promulgators of doctrines, which have lived, flourished for a Season, and died; that of Samuel Hahnemann will resound with the Praise, and Blessings of the Present Generation and Millions Yet unborn.

From the first Application of remedies, to the necessities of suffering humanity which must have been Coeval with Man until within the last half Century

the Practice of Medicine has been Enveloped in Clouds of obscurity & darkness, Superstition and Error.

While researches, into the operations of Nature have resulted in the Genn Lights of Science while Phenomena have been observed and Principles deduced from them, which give the laws regulating their actions. Upon the law of gravitation is founded the Motions of the heavenly bodies - their relation to each other - resulting in the Science of Astronomy.

The law of Chemical affinity - reveal the relations which Particles of Matter Sustain to each other. The discovery of the law which Governs and govern the forked lightning - have revealed the Science of Magnetism. The applications of the Principles of the Magnet, has Perfected

the science of Navigation. An investigation of the law of gravity, has revealed the science of geometry.

The operations of Nature have been noticed, and tracing from effects to cause, the laws in accordance with which Nature acts, have been deduced. But during the lapse of ages, while the mind of Man, eternally progressive as it is, has been employed in deducing Science from the facts which Nature presents — while Hypothesis have yielded to truth, and theories to principles, until the simplest child may learn and know the operations of Nature, and of Natures God — Still in that which was paramount to all others in importance to the welfare of humanity, this has vacillated on in the quagmire of doubt and uncertainty, advancing not one

footstep towards the immortal truth which govern the administration of remedies, in the cure of disease.
The laws of Chemistry have lent their aid in dispelling the Mists of Superstitions and Error.
Anatomy, Physiology, and Pathology, have paved the way for the application of the Mass of facts, which research for two thousand years have exhibited. Yet clinical experience contained in some upon some of pondrous volumes without one single principle of Practical utility, is all that has been deduced for the relief of suffering humanity.
Specificity in Medicine is cried down as impossible. Positive rules in the treatment of disease an absurdity.
But Com is be, that a beneficent God

who has created all things, who made the Sun to rule the day, and the Moon and Stars to give light by night, who has created all things in accordance with fixed and immutable laws — who has given laws for the government of all Physical as well as Moral Nature — has left man his noblest work subject to the decompositary Agency of Earth, air, fire and water, a prey to disease and death, without a single law to guide in the administration of the means to resist these influences?

While every hill and valley, every Cavern and crevice, even the very Sea teems with antidotes to the varied forms of disease which endangers vitality, is there no law to guide in the selection and administration of those antidotes

to restore the Equilibrium of the vital Fluid? Forbid it Almighty God. It is upon this broad and fundamental basis then upon which rests the claims of Homoeopathy for the closest attention from the Scientific Mind.

Whatever may be the truth of the law similia Similibus Curantur, nevertheless it is a law, and by it is every disciple of its tenets guided in the administration of Medicine, in every form of disease.

On the other hand, is there any law to guide our antagonists (Allopaths) in the selection of any one, or any number of drugs, in a given case.

In all the annals of Allopathic theory and Practice there is not one single Principle to guide in the selections-

of any one Remedy. Even those few Medicaments, which are called Specific, as Quinine in intermittent fever. Mercury in Syphilis, are not exhibited in accordance with any principle — but merely from Clinical Experience. Accident has revealed their Specificity — but no rule of action has been deduced to apply in other Cases, except those diseases which they are known to have a peculiar relation.

Is not the fact that certain forms of disease will certainly be cured by certain remedies, alone sufficient to infer the extreme probability that Nature has provided Specifics for all diseases and all forms of disease.

But the inquiry now is, Has the Science of Medicine been discovered

and is the Law Omnes Pathos
the law? Has the light of Sm.
illumed with its effulgent rays
the darkness which has for so long a
time, enshrouded in almost impen-
etrable folds, the Practice of the healing
art.

The first experiments of the action
of drugs upon the healthy system, which
led to the discovery of this Principle
is too well known to require repetition.
The effects of quinine in the
treatment of intermittent fevers, was
acknowledged by all — but its modus
operandi was not explained.

Its effects upon the healthy individual
showed conclusively, in accordance
with that law of Nature that drug at
least acted. Its effects upon individuals

of different temperaments, at different times, and in different places, have all pointed to the same results.

The same is true of Mercurius in the treatment of Syphilis. Hnahnemann has brought to light its wonderful properties;

It was left for patient and unremitting research, and painful experiment to explain the mode of its operations.

Scan every known fact of the Materia Medica, collected during the experience of two thousand years, and each, and every one, in every particular, are corroborated by their effects upon the healthy Animal economy.

I would instance, Ipecacuanha in the production and cure of irritability of the Stomach. Cantharides in its effects upon

the urinary organs. Belladonna as a Prophylactic in Scarletina, and Vaccination in Small Pox.

One of the most perfect Exemplifications of the similarity of Pathogenetic and Clinical Symptoms, is in the action of Nux Vomica. Even the justly celebrated Doctor Mott — the Embodiment of Modern Surgery in the Western Continent — and one of the most expert operators the world has ever produced — with a Candor worthy of the Man — admits the incalculable benefits which Mankind has, and will receive, from the use of Strychnine in Trismus, introduced by Hahnemann — and it is a well known fact — that the Symptoms of Trismus Can scarcely be identified, from the same list of Symptoms.

Instances innumerable might be adduced
Confirmatory of the Same Similarity between
Arts and Natural Disease.
It is an Established Rule in the Investigation
of any Subject, that that Theory which
accords with the greatest Number of
facts, Shall be the received hypothesis
for an Explanation of those facts.
Such was this with the Theory of Franklin
in Explanation of the Phenomena of
Electricity. His Theory finally Yielded
to that of Dufay which accorded with
the Greater Number of Phenomena
than that of Franklin.
If then a hypothesis accords with
Every known fact in relation to any
Subject - Principles deduced from that
hypothesis Must be received as True.
Such thus with the law which is the

foundation upon which the superstructure of Homeopathy is reared.

For not only does it present every fact recorded in the Epitomes of the Allopathic Materia Medica of the actions of drugs upon the System. but also every fact observed at the bedside, as the Curative Effects of those drugs. and not merely this but every Symptom noted and proved as the pathogenetic Effects, have received additional Confirmation from clinical Experience and Vice Versa.

Admitting then that there is a law of Cure; and that that law is Similia Similibus Curantur — What must be the inevitable result? It is that, not only the administration of remedies in accordance with that

A Principle Must Cure disease
Salve Cito et Jucunde, but
when a new disease shall arise — one
unknown in its diagnosis and Prognosis —
in its pathology and Therapeutics;
the same Principle Must be in force,
and the same results follow.
In the first onset of Small Pox, the
People were decimated — the judgement
of God was upon them — Setting at
defiance the established routine of
Practice — Stalking the length and
Breadth of the Land — unchecked
by the unsparing hand of the
wise and learned of the orthodox
Physic; unrelieved by the accumu-
-lated Experience of the allopathic
Materia Medica.
The Plague arose, Cities, Towns and

Villiages were depopulated - while the
living were scarcely sufficient to drag
away, and Inter into a Common Charnel
house, the innumerable dead.
No Incoming hands, or reliable aid could
those skilled in the lore of allopathy
extend, while thousands had been buried
into any untimely grave.
But now, should a new disease arise,
even as the motions of each newly discovered
celestial body can be determined by the
known influence of the law of Gravitation,
so by knowing the correspondence
between diseased actions in the human
system with the actions of drugs.
a knowledge of the Materia Medica
at once points out the appropriate
remedy: and the medicaments, whose
Pathogenic effects most closely resemble

the diseased action, must control the disease.

The application of Medicaments to the most trifling pains and their perfect adaptations to the removal of the most trivial symptoms, also tends to show, that the law of cure is universal - which it must be - or it is not law.

We have thus curiously reviewed the arguments in favour of an existing principle of universal applicability in the treatment of disease, and of the nature of that principle.

Let us now briefly examine what disease is, and the application of the tenets of Homoeopathy and Allopathy in their treatment.

Disease among all writers, is defined to be a disturbance of the vital forces.

It is not our purpose here to enquire what the Essence of Vitality is. It may be as some say, Electricity— or according to others, a principle Sui Generis.

But whatever it is— this principle first yields to the onset of Homœons influences. Causing disease, and by certain physical Symptoms, we judge of the Nature of the change in the vital powers.

According to the doctrine of Allopaths without any Exceptions, disease is either an Exaltation or depression of vitality, and their treatment in all Cases turns upon that point, Antiphlogistic or Phlogistic.

In the one Case, the vital powers are below the average standard,

and tonics and stimulants must be exhibited to sustain nature. In the other case, the vital forces are too excessive, hence depletions, purgatives, irritants and the innumerable appliances for reducing the vital forces to their normal condition. But the very foundations upon which is reared their gigantic superstructure, ransacking the vocabularies of ancient and modern languages to express, is utterly false and untenable. What is vitality? It is that principle by which organised matter is capable of resisting the action of decomposing agents and of ~~retaining~~ resisting its original form and quality. But the moment that vitality is lost, the organised bodies, both animal and

Vegetable, are Subject to the Chemical
actions of the Elements, and decay,
and decomposition Ensue.
Now in all Cases of Disease, the Powers
of Nature are less able to resist the
influence of antagonistical forces.
In Pneumonia, how much more Easily
are the Lungs affected by a draught
of Cold air — a Slight Exposure — any
Slight error, which in health would
not be felt, May be followed by the
most Serious Consequences.
In any inflammatory disease, if the
inflammation is resolved according
to this theory, the Patient Should be
in health. Yet, in how Many Cases has
a Slight indiscretion in diet been
fatal in its consequence.
But no Matter how high the grade of —

inflammation, or in what organs it is located. The powers of resistance are lessened in proportion to the intensity of the disease, so that influences which in health were unappreciated, in disease become deleterious in their consequences.

If then it be true, that disease is a depression of the vital powers, or in the broad and sweeping language of orthodox physic, debility, all agencies which tend in the least still more to depress vitality, must be injurious, and all antiphlogistic means absolutely evil.

Should then all disease be treated on the Phlogistic System? By no means, except so far as relates to the specificity of medicinal action is concerned. No medicine can give permanent strength, except by its curative effects

upon disease, this giving Nature
an opportunity of recruiting its
forces.